

In The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A surgically implantable adjustable ring for constricting a tubular organ, the adjustable ring comprising:

an open ring body having closure system including a first and a second end parts, the open ring body being designed to be closed around the tubular organ;

the closure system constricting the tubular organ by closing the ring and forming the ring into a loop; and

the first end part including a reinforcement structure and a sleeve having a first and a second portions, the sleeve being designed to receive the second end part, the sleeve being disposed in a substantially perpendicular direction in relation to the direction of the first end part, the second part-comprising a locking protrusion adapted to engage an aperture in the sleeve, thereby securing the ring in a closed position.

2. (Currently Amended) The adjustable ring according to claim 1, wherein the second portion of the sleeve contains the aperture, and wherein the second portion of the sleeve partially overlaps the [[the]] second part when the ring is in the closed position.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A surgically implantable adjustable ring for constricting a tubular organ, the adjustable ring comprising:

an open ring body having closure system including a first and a second end parts, the open ring body being designed to be closed around the tubular organ;

the closure system constricting the tubular organ by closing the ring and forming the ring into a loop; and

the first end part including a sleeve having a first and a second portions, the sleeve being designed to receive the second end part and having a tab extending from the second portion, the sleeve being disposed in a substantially perpendicular direction in relation to the direction of the first end part, the second part-comprising a locking protrusion adapted to engage an aperture in the sleeve, thereby securing the ring in a closed position;

The adjustable ring according to claim 4, wherein the tab comprises a portion more flexible than the remaining portion of the tab, the flexible portion being situated in the proximity of the aperture, the flexible portion preventing an accidental opening of the closure system after the adjustable ring is disposed around the tubular organ.

6. (Previously Presented) The adjustable ring according to claim 5, wherein said flexible portion comprises an opening.

7. (Previously Presented) The adjustable ring according to claim 3, wherein the reinforcement structure comprises a flange disposed transversally to the external perimeter of the ring.